

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4318
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2005
TIES WITH EUROPEAN COUNTRIES
Ponnuswamy Shri E.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 25 European countries have sought strategic partnership with India;
- (b) if so, the names thereof and the areas identified for a joint action plan; and
- (c) the benefits likely to be accrued to India therefrom?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) Yes Sir, the fifth India-EU Summit held in The Hague, the Netherlands on November 08, 2004 launched the Strategic Partnership between India and the EU, in recognition of the growing stature of India as a major regional and global player.

(b&c) The 25 member countries of the European Union include : Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands, United Kingdom.

The two sides are presently working together on finalizing an India-EU Joint Action Plan, which envisages strengthened dialogue and cooperation on a wide range of issues of mutual interest. The Joint Action Plan is expected to be finalized in time for the 6th India-EU Summit to be held in New Delhi next month.